



Kent Appelhans, Chair  
Mark Marchetta, Sr., Vice Chair

Dr. Carol Cunningham, State Medical Director

## TRAUMA COMMITTEE

**Committee Meeting Date and Location:** Wednesday, March 10, 2021 (10:00 a.m.) via Microsoft Teams<sup>®</sup>

**Committee Members Present:** Diane Simon - Chair, Dr. Michael Beltran, Dr. Erik Evans, Dr. Kent Harshbarger, Laurie Johnson, Fran Lauriha, Dr. James Sauto, Dr. Michael Shannon, Dr. Rajan Thakkar, Rachel Velasquez, Julie Warholic, and Dr. Howard Werman.

**Committee Members Absent:** Dr. Marco Bonta, Sara Brokaw, Joyce Burt, Dr. Jeffrey Claridge, Patty Hightower, Mr. Joseph Natko, Dr. Travis Perry, Angela Schetter and Tammy Wilkes.

**DPS and EMS Staff Members Present:** Executive Director Rob Wagoner, Beverly Cooper, Dr. Carol Cunningham, Valerie Koker, Eric Mays, and Sahithi Aurand

### **Welcome and Introductions**

The meeting was called to order at 10:14 a.m. Diane Simon welcomed everyone. Roll Call - Quorum was not attained

The minutes could not be approved due to the lack of quorum; however, Ms. Simon asked if there were any additions or corrections. There were none.

Ms. Simon stated that there was a glitch with technology and a cancellation notice was sent inadvertently to the members. Please note that the only source of a valid meeting cancellation notice will come from Valerie Koker.

Ms. Simon stated that the committee has two new members, Dr. Rajan Thakkar and Ms. Julie Warholic.

Ms. Warholic introduced herself as the trauma program manager at UH Portage for the last 7 years, a nurse for 10 years and in international business for 25 plus years. She stated that she is excited to be on the committee. Ms. Simon welcomed her to the Trauma Committee.

## **Agenda Items**

### **Education – No Report due to COVID-19. suspended until further notice.**

Typically, the Trauma Committee begins with an education piece; however, the face-to-face format is a vital component to the education reports. As such, the education segment has been suspended until further notice due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

However, for the next meeting in May there will be some centers who have had site visits by ACS. The DEMS will ask if the trauma centers would be willing to give us a presentation on their experience with the virtual site visits.

### **Approvals and Items Requiring Action**

The meeting minutes were not approved at this time due to not having a quorum. Of note, the minutes were approved later in the meeting when quorum was achieved.

### **Current status of Trauma Administration at the Ohio Department of Public Safety**

Mr. Wagoner reported that the Division has had many vacancies within the Division. Mr. Mays' data team was downsized by 50 percent. A new hire will start on March 28, 2021. Mr. Mays is working with HR to post the second position that became vacant due to a retirement.

Mr. Wagoner stated that the deputy director position was vacated due to his acceptance of the Executive Director position. The deputy director position has been filled and his start date is March 15, 2021. Mr. Aaron Jennings has accepted the position. He served on the EMFTS Board for a year representing the Ohio Ambulance and Medical Transportation Association. He has two decades of experience as a Delaware City Firefighter, a Delaware County EMS administrator and provider, and a MedFlight medic.

All of the sections at the Division of EMS (DEMS) support each other. The investigations had an AP2 vacant position and is currently in background checks. Certifications still has two positions that have been posted. Education is moving forward to get approval for one position that has been vacant for quite some time.

HB 404 facilitated the virtual public meetings. All of our meetings will continue virtually to at least July 1, 2021.

## **System Update**

### **System Status**

### **Trauma Center Status**

Ms. Simon reported that everyone received the list of trauma centers in Ohio. All trauma centers received a one-year extension. There are a few centers that will be having a review within the next couple of months.

Currently, there are eight provisional centers that are striving to become verified as trauma centers. McLaren St. Luke is seeking to become a level 3 trauma center.

### **Roll Call (10:28)**

Quorum was not established.

### **Data Submission Status**

Mr. Mays stated that the reporting period for 2020 data submission does not end until March 31, 2020. There are less than 10,000 submissions compared to this time last year.

### **Member Status**

Ms. Simon stated that there currently are three open seats which include a seat for a physical medicine and rehabilitation physician, an operator of an ambulance company and a representative from a non-trauma hospital.

Dr. Thakkar was able to join the meeting. Dr. Thakkar introduced himself as a pediatric surgeon at Nationwide Children's Hospital in Columbus. He is both the trauma medical director and the director for the burn center. He was born and raised in Ohio. He has a true passion for caring for patients with traumatic injuries. He thanked the committee. Ms. Simon welcomed him to the Trauma Committee.

**Action Item: A survey of the Trauma Committee members to identify any issues experienced including difficulty signing into Microsoft Teams®**

### **Liaison Reports**

### **Legislative Updates**

Mr. Wagoner welcomed Dr. Thakkar and Ms. Warholic for accepting their organizational nominations and for joining the Trauma Committee.

Mr. Wagoner stated that HB 444 is township laws that affects the EMS regulations concerning ambulance staffing ORC 4765.43. It was approved and signed and becomes effective on April 12, 2021. The background to the change was brought to the Division by many volunteer and rural agencies. Due to the required ambulance staffing, they could not leave the station without two EMS providers, EMTs or higher in their ambulance. This led to a change in the legislation concerning ambulance staffing requirements.

The act authorizes additional ambulance staffing options for traveling to the scene of an emergency without an EMT, AEMT or paramedic present. Specifically the following individuals may staff an ambulance traveling to an emergency providing they are 18 years old and have a valid driver's license and meets an EMT, AEMT, or paramedic at the scene.

Senate Bill 21 picks up the old stroke bill that was SB 302 from the last general assembly of 2020. It does a number of things to improve the care of stroke patients throughout the state of Ohio. It requires the State Board of Emergency Medical, Fire, and Transportation Services to develop guidelines in consultation with certain parties to assess triage and to transport stroke patients to appropriate facilities. It directs each EMS service organization to base its stroke patient protocols that are already required by the existing law. As a home rule state, Ohio does not have state wide protocols; however, the DEMS provides guidelines. Senate Bill 21 requires the EMFTS Board to make available copies of stroke patient protocols as established by EMS organizations. The DEMS will need to have a depository for all of the protocols on the EMS website. It would need to be searchable and downloadable. It requires each emergency medical service organization to provide emergency medical service personnel training and assessment of stroke patients. Each local medical director would be responsible for the protocols and training. This bill has gained support since March 3<sup>rd</sup> when it passed the Senate and was introduced to the House on March 4<sup>th</sup> and on March 9<sup>th</sup> the House referred it to the Transportation and Public Safety Committee. This bill has support from many organizations to include the American Heart Association. A discussion ensued regarding this issue. In terms of compliance, there is not anything currently identified in the bill. Trauma Committee member organizations can lobby for any changes to the bill. It was suggested to refer to the State of Ohio Adult EMS Guidelines and Procedures Manual for stroke care.

The DEMS continue to work with the ODPS legislative liaison to change the law that currently only allows representation from no more than one member from any given healthcare organization to serve on the Trauma Committee. The recommendation would be no more than two members from any given healthcare organization. It is a high priority in the legislative needs of the Trauma Committee.

### **State Board of Emergency Medical, Fire and Transportation Services (EMFTS Board)**

Executive Director Wagoner reported that the EMFTS Board had its first ever virtual retreat. The DEMS had a lot of support from the staff. The impact of COVID was discussed, the extensions of credentials and the eligibility of students and testing. House Bill 404 extended any certification that expired from March 9, 2020 through April 1, 2021. The extensions impacted more than 12,000 providers.

The Division of EMS had to completely change the way business was conducted. Site visits were transformed from face-to-face to virtual site visits. There were many other changes to help make everything run smoothly. Medical Transportation transformed their operations to include attestations and minimum staffing. Many lessons have been learned. The administrative hearings are being held virtually. In the Grants section there has been about \$300,000 out of the \$450,000 set aside for reimbursement for personal protective equipment for agencies that had a significant increase in their costs. The DEMS is now compliant with the reporting of EMSIRS data to the National Emergency Medical Services Information System (NEMSIS). The DEMS has received accolades from NEMSIS for the improvement and quality of the submissions.

The Investigations section continues to see an increasing number of investigations of people who do not self-disclose convictions. The DEMS does not currently require background checks for initial or renewal certification in EMS and Fire.

The DEMS finances are challenged. There were two streams of income; however, it was pulled by OBM before it went to the budget hearings.

### **State Medical Director**

The Regional Physicians Advisory Board (RPAB) still needs membership in regions 7 and 8. Members whose terms expired at the end of the year and did not apply for reappointment have been removed from the member roster.

Dr. Cunningham stated that Dr. Philip Oblinger, the original chair of the RPAB in the Cincinnati region, was recently recognized after decades of service to the RPAB. Dr. Dustin Calhoun will be the new chair of their RPAB.

The next RPAB meeting will be held March 10, 2021 at 1:00 p.m. The members will be reviewing waivers from physicians. The May meeting has been amended. The meeting will be May 6, 2021 at 12:00 pm.

Dr. Cunningham reported that the State of Ohio Burn Surge Plan group has been conducting table top drills. The document is on the EMS website. The group is looking at different avenues to improve the document and to identify any operational gaps that need filled.

### **Ohio Department of Health (ODH)**

Luke Werhan reported that the department remains focused on COVID-19 response.

Car seat checks continue to be virtual. Approximately 1400 car seats have recently been sent to car seat programs in Ohio.

There are two pilot projects underway in the Older Adult Falls space to establish regional network hubs to link between assessment and referrals to evidence based fall preventions programs in the hopes of decreasing risk level.

ODH is working with a master trainer in tai chi for arthritis to provide virtual facilitator trainings in April and May. The application for training is being distributed.

The Ohio Injury Prevention Partnership meeting is May 7, 2021 and will be a virtual meeting. The Child Injury Action Group and the Traumatic Brain Injury Subcommittee has worked to develop social media posts for Brain Injury Awareness month which is in March. The topic presented will be different each week. Focus areas include general information about TBIs, falls, wheeled sports, sports concussions and motor vehicles.

A new group, the Youth Suicide Subcommittee continues to build infrastructure and working in strategic planning to include mental health, resiliency, adverse childhood experience, and intervention.

Child Maltreatment has a new pilot project to introduce a safe environment for every kid (SEEK) injury tool into new pediatric practices in Ohio with a special emphasis on virtual and remote delivery of assessment and resources provided to families. SEEK is an evidence based intervention identified to address adverse childhood experiences. There have been seven new practices that have been incorporated into the training with 13 new providers implementing the SEEK assessment tool.

### **EMS Workgroup (on hiatus)**

Tami Wilkes will be the chair of this group in the future. There will be many more projects for this group.

#### **Performance Improvement (PI) Workgroup**

Dr. George reported that the PI workgroup has not met. They are set to meet on April 2, 2021.

#### **Trauma Registry Advisory Workgroup (TRAW, formerly known as TRAS)**

Ms. Simon reported that TRAW has not met.

#### **Rehabilitation Subcommittee (on hiatus)**

#### **Epidemiology Intelligence Service (EIS) Evaluation Workgroup (on hiatus)**

#### **Human Resources (HR) Ad Hoc Committee (EMFTS Board) and Scope of Practice (SOP) Ad Hoc Committee (EMFTS Board)**

Mr. Wagoner reported that both committees met after a long hiatus due to COVID-19. The committee reviewed their meetings before March 9, 2020 and focused on what their efforts were or any needs to prioritize their focus. All of the committees were repopulated at the EMFTS Board meeting in February. Meetings will begin monthly to continue with the strategic plan.

### **Trauma Committee Strategic Plan Focus**

#### **Resource Assessment/Competent Workforce Updated IEM Report**

Ms. Simon stated that the reports were received from Innovative Emergency Management<sup>®</sup> (IEM). It is a grant to study the workplace competency of our physicians, nurses, and EMS assistants. Ms. Simon stated that the Rural Trauma Workgroup had their first meeting the week before with nine members. The plan is that each person will review a specific region. The report breaks parameters down into regions and then compares it with the state. The report will determine gaps in the education. Ms. Simon stated that there would not be additional work to address the needs. The Rural Committee is looking at the gaps and exploring what can be done to improve the level of education in the state. The group is identifying any deficiencies as well as what is working well.

Dr. Beltran reported that there are 9 or 10 people in the Universal Workgroup. All members will be contacted, make introductions and determine meeting times.

### **System Oversight**

#### **Ohio Regional Trauma Organizations Coalition (ORTOC)**

Daniele Rossler stated that they met the first week of March. The ORTOC is trying to determine how to capture ED to IR and decided to move forward to use region codes. Ms. Rossler and Olivia have begun to complete the write up for the NFTI project so that all hospital systems that would like to participate have something they can present to their IRB. It would be an exempt study. Once this is done and approved, the ORTOC is working on creating a red cap survey for distribution that will facilitate the analysis of the data.

The Validation Project 2.0 has stalled due to the inability to acquire the data. The group met to work on the manuscript and have reset a timeline.

The ORTOC discussed the ACS Trauma Quality Improvement Program (ACS TQUIP) that went live March 1<sup>st</sup> for hospital systems to begin uploading data. There are an extra 30 data points they are collecting. They would like to get a little more information on the gunshot wounds.

## Roll Call (11:34 a.m.)

**Note: Quorum has been achieved.**

## Meeting Minutes Approval

***ACTION: Motion to approve the meeting minutes from January 10, 2021.*** Dr. Werman– First.  
Ms. Velasquez – Second. None opposed. None abstained. **Motion approved.**

## Rule Update

Ms. Cooper, the EMS Business Operations Manager was present to give an update on the rules. She reported that there are two chapters of the Ohio Administrative Code that relate to the Trauma Committee. All rules need to be reviewed every 5 years. The first one is OAC 4765-4 (Reporting delivery of emergency medical services in trauma care – 9 separate rules) and OAC 4765-14 (Trauma Triage). They were last reviewed in 2017. The deadline to review them is the first of November in 2022; however, that is the deadline to file with the Joint Committee on Agency Rule Review. They also need to be filed with the Common Sense Initiative office and that should be completed no later than July 2022. She suggested that no later than July of this year, the committee should have reviewed the rules. Changes can be made or they can be filed with no change rules.

There is a new part of the Ohio Revised Code that requires the deletion of two regulatory restrictions for every restriction that is added.

The rules will be made available to the Trauma Committee members before the May 2021 meeting.

## Old Business

### EMS Incident Reporting System (EMSIRS) – Update

The DEMS completed the retroactive upload of the 2020 data at the beginning of February to NEMSIS. They now have a complete set of data for the year of 2020. The DEMS are regularly sending data nationally.

## Trauma Strategic Plan

Ms. Simon reported that the committee is in the midst of completing a new Trauma Strategic Plan. Once the workgroups begin meeting and provide recommendations the plan will come together.

## New Business

### American College of Surgeons (ACS) Virtual Site Visits

Ms. Simon stated that the trauma centers that have had site visits in March and April will be contacted to give the Trauma Committee a brief presentation at the May meeting.

### **ACS Trauma Triage Guidelines, Feedback Survey**

Ms. Simon stated that she has received some input in regards to the survey. As a state committee, the Ohio Trauma Committee submitted feedback to ACS in response to the survey. The ACS has given a confirmation that they have received the committee's feedback.

### **Open Forum**

Ms. Simon inquired if anyone had anything for open forum; there was none.

### **Re-Cap of Action Items**

For the May education piece the DEMS will reach out to the ACS virtual site visit institutions including those that were visited over one scheduled day and two scheduled days. The DEMS will contact them for their feedback regarding their experience with the virtual site visits.

The DEMS will send an email survey to all the committee members to try to determine their connection issues with Microsoft Teams®. This will include information regarding cancellation of meetings.

The DEMS will send out chapters OAC 4765-4 and 4765-14 rules to the committee members for their review.

Remove the ACS Trauma Triage Feedback Survey from the next meeting agenda.

### **Adjournment**

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**ACTION:** *Motion to adjourn the meeting.* Dr. Shannon – First; Dr. Beltran – Second. None opposed. None abstained. Motion approved.

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The next Trauma Committee meeting is scheduled for May 12, 2021 via Microsoft Teams® at 10:00 am.